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Title: Need to provide additional train facility to Kerala from various destinations during Christmas and Sabarimala season.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Respected Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving this opportunity to raise an issue relating to travel difficulties for Keralites travelling towards Kerala during this winter season.

Holy Christmas, Holy Sabarimala *darshan* and holidays have again come. A large number of Keralites residing in other parts of the country like Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore and Delhi move to Kerala during this period. A good number of them use rail connectivity. The Keralites residing in nearby cities like Chennai and Bangalore also depend on road mobility. But with the closure of night traffic between Karnataka and Kerala, the people living in Bangalore have resorted to train travel. With limited seats available, train journey is always difficult even in normal period. With the ban on night traffic between these two States and escalating row between Kerala and Tamil Nadu, travel from and to Kerala by road has become a nightmarish and train travel, with no space even to stand comfortably in the trains, is beyond imagination.

During this period, there are no reservations available in Kerala bound trains from stations like Mumbai and Delhi.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to request the hon. Minister for Railways to immediately introduce special trains during this period to and fro Kerala and these locations.